3 Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF ADEN FOR 1938

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I. GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY

Geography

131 The Colony of Aden is situated on the south coast of Arabia and is bounded on the seaward side by the Gulf of Aden and on the landward side by the Aden Protectorate. It comprises :—

101 361 133 (a) The peninsula, an extinct volcano in the crater of which lies the old town of Aden which is the main commercial and residential centre of the Colony. On the north shore is the modern harbour suburb of Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area usually referred to as Steamer Point, a large part of which is leased in perpetuity to the Air Ministry with the exceptions of the areas occupied by Government House, the Eastern Telegraph Company's buildings and the Political Secretary's house. To the North of Tawahi lies the dhow harbour and the village of Maala.

(b) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(c) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad and Buraikha and

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Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula, are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

Description

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jabel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Crater, the main Arab town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the crater of the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain which is barely ¾ mile wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement, but except during the cold weather months produce is very limited. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Perim

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and the Eastern Telegraph Company and Lloyd's were represented there. There are now no commercial concerns on the island.

Climate

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The minimum day temperature recorded was 69·1 in February, 1938, and the maximum was 101·5 in July, 1938. The rainfall totalled 1·59 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e., during the north-east monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. in July and August, strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sandstorms are apt to occur in the months of May, June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction usually a short time before sunset and are often

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

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The Colony of Aden is situated on the south coast of Arabia and is bounded on the seaward side by the Gulf of Aden and on the landward side by the Aden Protectorate. It comprises—

(*a*) the peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Aden Settlement to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the names of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan on which the buildings have been constructed, and lastly the dhow harbour and village of Maala;

(*b*) the isthmus known as Khormaksar;

(*c*) an area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad and Buraikha and Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden peninsula are situated in this area;

(*d*) the island of Perim.

29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 MI Middle East
Hadhramaut MM2
Aden MM1

COTTON IN ARABIA

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PESTS AND DISEASES

"At first, as was to be expected, the cotton crop as a whole was remarkably free from major pests and diseases, but these are now beginning to appear. Bacterial blight *(X. malvacearum)*, has not so far been evident, the land having started clean and the seed having been introduced from Tokar where the disease is not prevalent. The almost complete absence of rain during the growing season also makes any secondary spread of the disease unlikely.

"Jassids are present in small numbers and may tend to increase, and American bollworm *(Heliothis armigera)* is beginning to appear in quite large numbers in Abyan.

"At Lahej the most serious pests are the red bollworm *(Diparopsis castanea)* and the pink bollworm *(Platyedra gossypiella)*.

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PROSPECTS

"It is unlikely that production of cotton in the Aden Protectorate will ever be on a very large scale as the area of land which can conveniently be flooded is limited. At present some 30,000 acres are in use in Abyan, of which 9,000 are under cotton and the target, when all proposed canals are finished, is about 50,000 acres, with cotton on about 20,000 acres in a good flood year. With developments in other areas the total area under cotton may be extended to 30,000 acres.

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RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION

"The Senior Entomologist of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, at the request of the Director of Agriculture, visited Aden in January 1951 to make a survey of the insect pest position, and the Corporation's senior officer in the Sudan is now spending half his time in Aden pending full time employment by the Abyan Board later. He has started selection work on the X1730 A seed from the Sudan and is arranging for regular supplies of pure seed to be produced in the area. In addition other strains are being tested in the variety trials and observation plots, including a strain of Wilds which matures very early and occupies the land for only six months. If this proves successful it might enable a food crop to be grown in the same year as the cotton crop.

"A Colonial office mission also visited Aden early in 1951 to examine the technical, agricultural and financial problems involved and to make recommendations for the development of the scheme and the establishment of any research work that may be needed."

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ADEN

The crown colony of Aden located on a tiny peninsula on the coast of the protectorate actually dominates the area. Though the colony is only 75 square miles in area it has almost 100,000 people. The port of Aden has been an important trading center since the time of the ancients. This was the crossing point for the Abyssinians as early as 3,000 B.C. It was the final port of call for the Indian traders in the same century. It was also a chief port on the Indian trade route during the Roman times. Today Aden is the principal port and the commercial center for the entire Arabian Peninsula and one of the main crossing points for the African Moslems trekking to Mecca.

Aden MM1
Hadhramaut MM2

A The city of Aden together with the peninsula of Little Aden, the territory of Sheikh Othman, and the Island of
● 101 Perim thus form a Crown Colony under direct British rule. (5)

A 6421 648

5. The British distinguish between two basic types of colonial administration: direct rule and indirect rule. The former means that the area is administered directly by British colonial officials without any native governmental machinery as is the case in Aden Colony. In the latter case use is made of existing native institutions and many of the actual administrative functions are in the hands of native governments under the control of British colonial officials.

A [101]

The islands of Kuria Muria, and Kamaran are also British possessions administered under the control of the Governor of Aden.

This means that no native government whatsoever functions in the area. As a colony, Aden is part of the British national territory and its inhabitants are British subjects. In spite of the transfer of administrative control over Aden to the Colonial Office, the ties with India have not been completely broken. A large amount of British
A 692 671 Indian legislation, which had been made applicable to Aden, continues in force. The judicial organization, moreover, is still closely linked with India since appeals from the Aden Supreme Court lie in the High Court in Bombay. In dealing with any legal case centered in Aden, British Indian substantive and procedural laws have, therefore, to be taken into account.

H 642 648 2. The Aden Protectorate. The present organization of the Protectorate is based upon the Aden Protectorate Order in Council of 18 March 1937. (6) Under it the Governor of the Colony is at the

6. S. R. & O. 1937, pp. 750-57; amended 10 July 1940, S. R. & O. 1940, pp. 397-98.

same time Governor of the Protectorate. (7) The functions exercised

H 600 7. A protectorate, even one very closely resembling a colony, is not part of the national territory of the protecting state but

22: Reilly G-3 (1933-41) 1941 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2
ADEN MM1

long been distracted by blood feuds and brigandage. An energetic Agricultural Officer appointed by the Colonial Office has initiated experiments that are producing very promising results on the Audhali plateau to the north-east of Aden, and in other districts where water is available for irrigation. Medical and educational progress is as yet only in its initial stage, but a beginning has been made in the establishment of local dispensaries, and the institution at Aden of a Protectorate College for the sons of chiefs has met with encouraging success.

It is a fundamental principle of our policy in the Aden Protectorate that the Arab character of the country must be preserved. In this respect the Protectorate differs from the colony of Aden, which it adjoins. The colony is a small territory comprising the town and port of Aden; and, although the majority of its inhabitants are Arabs, it has long been a cosmopolitan community, in which Europeans, Indians, Jews, and Somalis mingle with the Arabs in friendly co-operation and a common loyalty to the British Crown and administration. The Protectorate, on the other hand, is recognized to be wholly Arab country. There is no intention on the part of the British Government to annex any part of it or to introduce any direct British administration. Our ambition and our hope are to produce in Southern Arabia an example of friendly and willing British and Arab co-operation, in which we give the best we can in the shape of advice and technical help without disturbing the national characteristics of the people. All efforts at reform are fated to meet with opposition from some quarters, and especially from those that are interested in the maintenance of old abuses, and our experience in the Aden Protectorate is no exception in this respect. On the whole, however, we have received a cordial, and often an eager, response. British officers working in Aden and the Protectorate have been rewarded not only with understanding and support, but also with liking and friendship that have bound them by personal ties to these Arabs, who have so much in common with the British in their individualism, their adventurousness, their humour, and their love of freedom. Now, when the Empire is at war and is passing through critical days, it is a pleasure and an encouragement to see the spontaneous loyalty and affection that have been displayed by the people of Aden reflected also in the Protectorate that we so long neglected but are now at last trying sincerely to befriend. In the towns and in remote villages in the mountains the people have gathered in their mosques to pray for British victory. Their friendship did not falter in the dark days of last summer, and now that victories have